



School Improvement Council Assistance

Fall 2000

SICs Organize to Monitor Plan: Everyone Has a Job

Monitoring the school's strategic plan is the major role of all School Improvement Councils this school year. By November 15, 2000, districts will have sent their strategic plans to the SC Department of Education with the plans of all the schools in the district (268 schools completed their plans last year).

Monitor means "to check," "to watch, observe, check for a special purpose," and "to keep track of" according to the dictionary. To start this task, each SIC member must understand what the strategy looks like, what it is intended to do, and what evidence or measure is required to evaluate the success of the strategy.



Every school's plan has a set of strategies (aims or goals). Each strategy has a series of action steps to implement this year's portion of the plan. The SIC will use the plan to organize itself for its monitoring task.

Everyone serving on the SIC – elected, appointed, ex-officio – needs to have a job. Each member should volunteer or accept an assignment to follow the progress of one of the strategies being implemented and be responsible for reporting that progress to the whole SIC. This can be accomplished by matching the SIC organization to the implementation organization of the school's faculty.

Three models appear most often across the state.

1 – Each member of the SIC volunteers or is assigned to one of the strategies and becomes the chair or co-chair of the strategy subcommittee depending on the number of strategies in the plan. Each subcommittee will recruit a small number of parents and/or teachers to conduct the monitoring activities for their assigned strategy.

2 – The SIC members choose a strategy and join in the work of the faculty implementation team for that strategy. The SIC member(s) act as the liaison between the full SIC and the faculty implementation team. They report the progress of the implementation themselves or have an implementation team member attend the SIC meeting to report progress.

3 – The SIC members choose a strategy and act as a liaison with the individuals in the school responsible for the implementation of the chosen strategy. The SIC member(s) for each strategy follows the implementation progress by staying in touch with the individual or group and either reports the progress themselves or has someone attend the SIC meeting to report.

Monitoring Steps

First, determine that the strategy actually has begun. If the strategy is a new reading program, an after school homework assistance, or new science "hands on" curriculum the first step in monitoring is to observe that it actually is in operation and there is evidence or data which can verify the operation. Success or failure can not be determined unless it is known for certain that the strategy actually was implemented as intended.

Second, multiple types of information must be gathered as the strategy is implemented. Data can be gained from the teachers, students, parents, or community depending on the strategy. Surveys, short and specific, can be a good source of data to gauge the progress of the implementation. Data about the number of students involved, teachers' stories about specific student improvements, and observed behaviors or activities are all examples of the types of information that can be gathered.

Third, information gathered must be analyzed for meaning and shared with the SIC and those responsible for the implementation. If a survey was used, those responding to the survey should also learn about the responses and the interpretation being given to them. If observations were used, the summary is shared with the SIC and publication of the conclusions made available to interested parties.

Fourth, at the end of the year, a final look at the strategy implementation is made and an evaluation conducted with those involved and the SIC as to the level and quality of the strategy implementation. Decisions to 1) continue the strategy as is, 2) make modifications, or 3) abandon it in favor of something else will be made based on the evaluation results and incorporated into the plan for the coming school year.

(See SICs Organize p. 3)

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SICA Welcomes Regional Staff

School Improvement Council Assistance opened two regional offices in September. Two part-time coordinators will provide training and technical assistance in their regions.

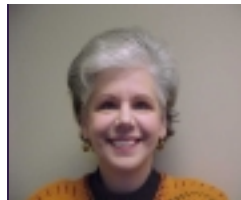
Jennifer Robinson, Low Country Regional Program Services Coordinator - Charleston, Dorchester 2 and 4, Berkeley, and Colleton school districts.

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Jennifer Robinson is a native of Charleston County, attended SC public schools, and Tuskegee Institute University in Alabama. She and her husband Everett Robinson are the parents of six children. Ms. Robinson has been involved with the schools personally and professionally for over

16 years and has served as an SIC member. Well known in the Charleston area as an advocate for children, parents and public schools, Ms. Robinson is employed by the Charleston County School District in the School Community Council Support Center. Her passion is coaching girls' soccer; she also volunteers for the Spoleto Arts Festival and is an active member of the Jerusalem Baptist Church. You can reach Jennifer Robinson at 843-722-6038 or toll free 1-877-519-4765.

Carol Vickery, Upstate Regional Program Services Coordinator - Anderson 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Oconee, and Pickens school districts.



Carol Vickery is a native of Dixon, Illinois, where she received her graduate degree in education from Illinois State University. Ms. Vickery has taught kindergarten, middle school and high school, and is currently the Community Involvement Coordinator for Anderson School District Five.

She coordinates the volunteer programs, business education partnerships, and School Improvement Councils in all District Five schools and has been instrumental in establishing the Legacy Mentoring Program. Married to Eddie Vickery and the mother of three children, she still finds time to volunteer in her community. In 1998 the Vickery family received the State Volunteer Family of the Year award given by the governor. Carol Vickery can be reached at 864-224-9820 or toll free 1-877-519-4764.

SIC District Contacts Named

Each district superintendent has named a District Contact to coordinate services and training to SICS, using SICA as a resource to the district and each school's council. SICs are encouraged to notify the SIC District Contact of your meetings, solicit information from them about the district, and seek their assistance to fulfill the council's role and responsibilities.

Abbeville, Mr. Mike Campbell; **Aiken**, Dr. Frank Roberson; **Allendale**, Mrs. Shirley Harney; **Anderson 1**, Mr. John Pruitt; **Anderson 2**, Mrs. Gloria Lowe; **Anderson 3**, Ms. Gail Southard; **Anderson 4**, Ms. Anne Purser; **Anderson 5**, Ms. Carol Vickery; **Bamberg 1**, Mr. Rick Starr; **Bamberg 2**, Dr. Watson Cleckley; **Barnwell 19**, Ms. Nancy Richardson; **Barnwell 29**, Mr. Edward Mazingo; **Barnwell 45**, Ms. Carolyne Williams; **Beaufort**, Mr. William Evans; **Berkeley**, Dr. Luci Carter; **Calhoun**, Mrs. Ann Caddell; **Charleston**, Mr. John Raffaele; **Cherokee**, Mrs. Elizabeth Ivey; **Chester**, Ms. Anne Holladay; **Chesterfield**, Mr. Mike Burns; **Clarendon 1**, Ms. Cathleen Skelley; **Clarendon 2**, Ms. Connie Dennis; **Clarendon 3**, Dr. David Sherbine; **Colleton**, Mr. Bob Bell; **Darlington**, Ms. Maureen Thomas; **Dillon 1**, Ms. Joan Page; **Dillon 2**, Dr. Flossie Bartell; **Dillon 3**, Ms. Cynthia LeGette; **Dorchester 2**, Mr. Michael Windham; **Dorchester 4**, Ms. Joyce Davis; **Edgefield**, Mr. David Mathis; **Fairfield**, Ms. Jannette Henry; **Florence 1**, Mr. John Sullivan; **Florence 2**, Dr. Steve Quick; **Florence 3**, Dr. Sharon Askins; **Florence 4**, Mr. Randy Smiley; **Florence 5**, Dr. Keith Callicutt; **Georgetown**, Ms. Patricia Hammel; **Greenville**, Dr. Elizabeth Warren; **Greenwood 50**, Ms. Martha Vincent; **Greenwood 51**, Ms. Arelene O'Dell; **Greenwood 52**, Mr. Gerald Robinson; **Hampton 1**, Mr. Danny All; **Hampton 2**, Mrs. Louise Deloach;

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The 2000 SIC District Contact Meeting

Horry, Ms. Joan Grimmett; **Jasper**, Mrs. Gwendolyn Smith; **Kershaw**, Dr. Barbara Briggs; **Lancaster**, Dr. Patricia Burns; **Laurens 55**, Mrs. Nancy Thompson; **Laurens 56**, Dr. Laura Koskela; **Lee**, Mr. Randall Burns; **Lexington 1**, Ms. Jane Brailsford; **Lexington 2**, Ms. Joy Gray; **Lexington 3**, Dr. Wanda Whatley; **Lexington 4**, Ms. Shannon Maddox; **Lexington 5**, Mr. Buddy Price; **Marion 1**, Mr. Cleo Richardson; **Marion 2**, Dr. Jerry Leviner; **Marion 3**, Dr. Jane Pulling; **Marion 4**, Ms. Jean Pace; **Marlboro**, Mr. James Myers; **McCormick**, Ms. Jackie Brown; **Newberry**, Dr. Cynthia Downs; **Oconee**, Mr. Gregg Bibb; **Orangeburg 3**, Dr. Kenneth Jenkins; **Orangeburg 4**, Ms. Rosa Kennerly; **Orangeburg 5**, Mrs. Emmie Thirwell; **Palmetto Unified**, Ms. Kathy Jackson; **Pickens**, Ms. Mary Babb; **Richland 1**, Mrs. Sharon Earle; **Richland 2**, Dr. Richard Inabinet; **Saluda**, Ms. Mary Quattlebaum; **Spartanburg 1**, Mr. Harry McMillan; **Spartanburg 2**, Mr. Daryle Hope; **Spartanburg 3**, Mr. Pete Pillow; **Spartanburg 4**, Ms. Connie McClain; **Spartanburg 5**, Mr. David Henderson; **Spartanburg 6**, Mrs. Debra Bishop; **Spartanburg 7**, Mr. Al Jeter; **Sumter 2**, Dr. Sulyn Elliott; **Sumter 17**, Mrs. Virginia Brown; **Union**, Mr. Curtis Dunbar; **Williamsburg**, Mrs. Janice Gamble; **York 1**, Mr. Corbett Gibson; **York 2**, Ms. Barbara Parrish; **York 3**, Dr. Gwen Kodad; **York 4**, Dr. Chuck Epps; **SC DJJ**, Ms. Meda Cobb.

The Next Step in Accountability: Parent Involvement

When families are involved in their children's education, the children go to better schools and achieve at higher levels. This premise underlies newly signed legislation (Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act) and the parent expectations outlined in the Education Accountability Act (EAA).

SICA developed a daylong seminar to respond to these statutes. The goal of the seminar is to provide a foundation of learning about parent partnerships that a school team (minimum of 3 with principal) can share with the faculty and begin to design a course of action for their school. The research, structures, and procedures that promote parent involvement and samples of strategies found to be successful are shared.

The research framework created by Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director of the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University identifies six types of family partnership roles that the school can initiate:

Type 1 – Parenting: a variety of methods to provide information for parents to support their child in school.

Type 2 – Communication: establish multiple methods to exchange information between the home and school.

Type 3 – Volunteering: recruitment of parents to assist in school activities and be audiences.

Type 4 – Home Learning: development of learning experiences parents and students do together.

Type 5 – Decision Making and Advocacy: participation on councils, PTA/O and advisory groups.

Type 6 – Collaboration with the Community: coordinate resources and services for families and students.

Access to more information about the six types and how to adopt them at your school through the National Network of Partnership Schools web site: www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000.

Registration for four Parent Involvement seminars around the state is completely full. If your school is interested in sending a team to a future seminar, please send an email to sica@gwm.sc.edu.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL ASSISTANCE

- What is a School Improvement Council?
- Who may serve on a council?
- Are SICs new?
- What do SICs do?
- Why should I become involved? And..
- What is School Improvement Council Assistance?

SICA's **NEW FULL COLOR BROCHURE** answers these questions and will make a great marketing tool for your Council. Call SICA 1-800-868-2232 to order a supply for your school.

Check Out SICA's New Website



School Improvement Council Assistance is building a new website to provide you with the latest information for your council. The colorful, user-friendly website is now available at www.ed.sc.edu/sica/sica.html. Though much of the site is still under construction you can now download a copy of the basic council handbook and look up information on SIC events. Sample by-laws, publications and descriptions of training opportunities will be available in late October.

In the coming weeks you will have instant access to the state laws that shape the work of Councils and links with other websites that can provide you with information and resources. The site will also feature information on the SICA Board of Trustees and staff members.

SICA wants to ensure that our new website is a valuable tool to assist you in building an effective School Improvement Council. Please email your comments to sica@gwm.sc.edu.

"Get to know us. Assistance is in our name."



SICs Organize...

(continued from p. 1)

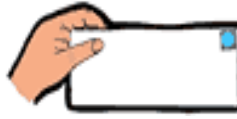
Fifth, the evaluation results of all the strategies will be compiled into an annual update and submitted to the local school board. The assistance the SIC provides is important to the quality of the decisions made by the school as it continues to implement the plan to improve student learning and performance.

Many opportunities exist for SIC members to assist the school in its improvement efforts through the monitoring process. Everyone gets a job – a strategy to follow – and has the opportunity to contribute richly to the data the school needs for quality decisions.

Governor Signs Parent Involvement Act

The morning of Thursday, September 29 was an important one for South Carolina parents. Governor Jim Hodges signed the Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act into law during a press conference in the statehouse rotunda. Governor Hodges said he believes parents are "a key element to educational success." It is now the responsibility of the State Department of Education, the EOC, district superintendents, school boards, and principals to ensure increased involvement of parents in their children's education. The Act was inspired by the recommendations of the Parent Involvement Task Force, a group of parents, educators and community leaders from across the state convened by the EOC.

And The Winner Is. .



The SC Association of School Administrators promotes achieving Accountability Through Schools of Promise. A Flagship School of Promise provides at least three of the fundamental resources which include: Mentor – an ongoing relationship with a caring adult; Protect – a safe place to learn and grow; Nurture – a healthy start and a healthy future; Prepare – a marketable skill through effective education; and Serve – an opportunity to give back through community service. 175 schools applied for flagship status; the 73 winners are listed below. The 23 winning schools from 1999 retain flagship status for three years.

2000 SCHOOLS OF PROMISE FLAGSHIP WINNERS

Anderson 4: La France Elementary; Riverside Elementary; Townville Elementary. **Anderson 5:** Calhoun Street Elementary; Centerville Elementary; Concord Elementary; Lakeside Middle; McCants Elementary; Nevitt Forest Elementary; New Prospect Elementary; Southwood Middle; T.L.Hanna High; Varennes Elementary; West Market Family Education Center; Whitehall Elementary. **Beaufort County:** Broad River Elementary; Lady's Island Middle; Port Royal Elementary. **Berkeley County:** Cross Elementary. **Cherokee County:** Gaffney High. **Clarendon 2:** Alcolu Elementary. **Dorchester 2:** Alston Middle; Newington Elementary; Oakbrook Elementary; Spann Elementary; Summerville Elementary. **Edgefield County:** Johnston Elementary; Merriwether Elementary; W. E. Parker Elementary. **Florence 1:** Royall Elementary. **Greenville County:** Ellen Woodside Elementary; Hillcrest High; Paris Elementary; Riverside High. **Horry County:** Aynor High; Myrtle Beach Primary. **Laurens 55:** Laurens Jr. High. **Lexington 1:** Midway Elementary; Pelion High. **Marion 1:** Easterling Primary. **Newberry County:** Little Mountain Elementary; Mid-Carolina High; Mid-Carolina Middle; Pomaria-Garmany Elementary; Prosperity-Rikard Elementary. **Oconee County:** J.N. Kellett Elementary; West Oak High. **Pickens County:** Pickens High. **Richland 1:** W.J. Keenan High. **Richland 2:** Blythewood Middle; Joseph Keels Elementary; Killian Elementary; Pontiac Elementary; Spring Valley High. **Spartanburg 5:** Byrnes High; D.R. Hill Middle; Duncan Elementary; Reidville Elementary; River Ridge Elementary. **Spartanburg 6:** Anderson Mill Elementary; Woodland Heights Elementary. **Spartanburg 7:** E.P. Todd Elementary; Houston Elementary; Mary H. Wright Elementary; McCracken Jr. High; Park Hills Elementary; Spartanburg High. **York 3:** Finley Road Elementary; Sylvia Circle Elementary; W.C. Sullivan Middle. **Williamsburg County:** Cades Hebron Elementary; Kingstree Sr. High.

Dads Really Do Make A Difference

The US Department of Education has published a new report, *A Call to Commitment: Fathers' Involvement in Children's Learning*, indicating fathers make important contributions to their children's education. In past years "parent involvement" has often meant only "mother involvement," with educators and schools focusing their efforts on communication with mothers. The recent emphasis on parent involvement in South Carolina challenges educators and the greater school community to expand their efforts and take special care to ensure inclusion of fathers.

The research finds that father involvement has specific effects on children's education including better grades, improved attendance, homework completion, improved attitude toward school, higher graduation and college attendance rates. Other related effects of fathers' involvement in their children's lives include positive role models, learning to make choices, problem solving abilities, and financial and emotional support.

The report provides specific information on what fathers can do at home, at school and in the community to improve their involvement in their children's education. It also contains strategies for schools, educators, employers, and programs to remove barriers to father involvement, and create opportunities for them to be a part of the education process. To receive a free copy of the report contact the US Department of Education 1-877-4ED-PUBS or www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html.

SIC ACTION

TIMELINE



OCTOBER

- 23 - Teamwork Precedes Academic Success presented by Ako Kambon in Charleston (see p. 5)
- 26 The Next Step in Accountability: Parent Involvement presented by Dr. Jean Norman in North Charleston area
- 27 - SIC State Meeting repeat broadcast
- Parent and teacher elections completed
- SIC community members appointed
- SIC members organize into committees to monitor strategy implementation
- Membership information sent to SIC District Contact

NOVEMBER

- 2 - The Next Step in Accountability: Parent Involvement presented by Dr. Jean Norman in Columbia (see p. 5)
- 2 - Teamwork for Academic Progress presented by Ako Kambon in Greenville (see p. 5)
- 15 - Disks containing SIC membership lists from District Contacts due to SICA
- 16 - Aiken County SIC mini-conference, Chukker Creek ES
- Review PACT results
- Conduct PACT information sessions for parents
- Organize to write the Report to the Parents, due February 1
- Receive information from strategy committee(s) about progress.

DECEMBER

- Gather initial drafts of information for Report to the Parents
- Receive information from strategy committee(s) about progress

SIC Trainings and Events

Mark Your Calendar!

School Improvement Council Assistance is pleased to present the following trainings and conferences to assist your school in reaching its full potential.

Call for more information: 800-868-2232 or 803-777-7658.



Teamwork Precedes Academic Success

Challenge you assumptions about how people work in groups or teams. Learn how individual experiences, education, culture and ethnic diversity can be resources for your School Improvement Council.

picture #3 here

Ako Kambon, President of Visionary Leaders Institute in Ohio will conduct the trainings. He uses real life stories to make his point and engages his audience with humor and activities. Some of you will remember his acclaimed keynote presentation at the 1999 SIC Conference.

Join us and discover the personal qualities each member brings to the SIC. Learn to identify culture-based behaviors that contribute to effective teams and recognize the benefits of diversity in effective working relationships.

\$10 per person registration fee. NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION. Call SICA to register.
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Light supper included.

October 23, 2000

Charleston Southern University
Strom Thurmond Student Center - Gold Room
Hwy 78 off 1-26
North Charleston

November 2, 2000

Greenville Technical College
Continuing Education/Dental Auditorium - Room 350
Hwy 291 - S. Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville



SIC Mini-Conference

Aiken County
November 16, 2000
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Can We Talk? Facilitator Trainings

Sponsored by SC PTA and co-sponsored by SICA, this training includes meals, snacks and materials **at no cost** to participants. All trainings will be conducted by Dominic Capello (a recent guest on "Oprah"), developer of *Can We Talk?* and trainer for the PTA and National Education Association Health Information Network. Facilitators will leave the training ready to conduct the four-part parent workshops in their own communities. Hours are **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday** and **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday**. For more information or to register, call Kelli Kenison, Project Coordinator, 803-695-9955.

November 10 & 11, 2000

American Red Cross
Greenville

January 26 & 27, 2001

Pee Dee Education Center
Francis Marion Campus/Florence



SIC State Meeting Repeat Broadcast

October 27, 2000

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. via ETV Satellite - Channel 322

- Effective SIC Operations
- SIC Roles and Responsibilities
- New legislation update



From the Back Porch to the Board Room: Finding Resources for Your School

SICA Annual Conference

February 17, 2001

Featuring storyteller Lorraine Johnson-Coleman, author of *Just Plain Folks*, and creator of the National Public Radio program of the same name; also SC Teacher of the Year, Christa Compton. Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Columbia

For Your Information . . .

picture #4 here

"Unknown" District Contact
Models Cool Cat Suit

FREE Mascot Suit and Immunization Materials

Planning a health fair at your school? Keep SC's immunization rates at the top of the nation while adding some fun to your fair with a live appearance by Cool Cat, the state's immunization promotion mascot. The full size mascot suit comes with its own "ice pack vest." Cool Cat is a hit with kids as they learn the importance of staying healthy by getting all their shots. The Alliance for South Carolina's Children and SCDHEC also offer a variety of educational brochures and materials (like coloring books and puzzle pages) in English and Spanish for children and their parents. To borrow the Cool Cat mascot suit call Betsy Wolff (803) 931-0540. To stock up on immunization handouts call 1-800-27SHOTS

FREE Safety Curriculum for Pre-K through Eighth Grade

The SC SAFE KIDS Coalition has introduced the *RISK WATCH* curriculum, which can be taught as a stand-alone unit or easily integrated into other subjects such as health, language arts and physical education. The curriculum addresses injury prevention in eight risk areas and includes reproducible diplomas that can be personalized. The supply of free copies is limited so call Ree Mallison, SC SAFE KIDS State Director, (803) 796-1950 or your local SAFE KIDS Coalition today!

Middle Schools and Parents in the Spotlight

SICA has been asked by the SC Middle Schools Task Force to compile the best practices for parent involvement and publish the findings. A research-based framework for family, school, community partnerships is used as the basis for identifying best practices. Each SC middle school is being asked to respond to a survey to identify effective policies, practices, methods, and/or programs that have contributed significantly to increased quality and/or quantity of parent involvement. Schools will be recognized in the publication for their contributions. Surveys were mailed to principals in October. If your school did not receive a survey, please request one from SICA, 1-800-868-2232.

Fall 2000

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SICA NEWS...

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Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
P • A • I • D
Permit 766
Columbia, SC

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